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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 377. MARCH, 1938.

PURPOSE. FORTHGIVING. METHOD.

"My Word shall accomplish that whereto it was sent."—ISA. LV. 11.

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NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN MEETING-HOUSE, BALLYMONEY.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A commission of representatives of various denominations, which has been at work for some time considering to what extent a united Church is possible, has issued a report of the results of its explorations. No satisfactory ground of union for such close co-operation has so far been disclosed, and some leaders have expressed themselves as considering it undesirable at the present stage. Statistics show about double the number of communicants in the Nonconformist Churches that there are in the Church of England. One essential is that there should be a certain amount of recognition of the Episcopate, and therein are problems which will require time to work out, although it is hoped that these can be surmounted. About twenty years ago the Lambeth Report was issued in which a scheme for "sub conditione ordination," without renunciation of present ministry or repudiation of past, was put forward. We understand that in Southern India and in parts of the mission field this scheme has been at work, making possible interchange in

all the offices of the Church, and thereby securing mutual help under circumstances of difficulty. The recent report is evidently a sequence upon this.

* * *

"Doctrine of the Church of England" is the title of the report of a commission which has been at work for fifteen years. Great interest has been taken in this book, for in Belfast it was not to be found in any of the leading book-shops, where repeated supplies had been sold out. The Commission represented the various sections, but agreement was not reached on certain important points, such as the Virgin Birth and the Resurrection, so that now they agree to disagree.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. W. Eakin, 103 Greenore Street, Belfast.

* * *

Dr. D'Arcy, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland for 18 years, prior to which he was Bishop of Down, Connor and Dromore, passed away on February 1st. He held the affection and esteem of all denominations, and was reputed to be one of the foremost scholars in the Anglican Church. One of his daughters is married to Lord Dunleath of Ballywalter Park.

* * *

The 316th meeting of the Ministers' Conference was held at Rosemary Hall, Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, on February 7th, the Rev. Howard Payne, Minister of All Souls' Church, being the host. There was a very full attendance. Regret was expressed at the illness of the Rev. J. A. Kelly, who on medical advice is taking a voyage to Africa. Gratification was expressed at the honour various societies in Queen's University had united in paying to the Rev. Dr. A. L. Agnew in having invited him to stand as a Parliamentary candidate. Dr. Agnew was, however, on account of his own ministerial duties, unable to accede to the request. The next Ministers' Meeting is fixed for March 7th at Ardeevin, Cadogan Park, Belfast.

* * *

April, 1938, number published on 26th March. Copy sent in before March 19th will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

* * *

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

As will be seen from the notice elsewhere, our friends at Rademon Meeting-House, to raise money for the repair of property, are holding a concert, arranged by the Women's League, on Thursday evening, March 10th. We wish the concert every success, and trust that as many friends as can find it convenient to get to Rademon will do so. Church property is always an item involving a certain amount of anxiety and expense, and we hope in this case there will be ample response.

"THE UNIVERSITY AND THE ELECTION."

"What is Northern Ireland," inquired Sir William Hungerford recently, "but one of the most democratic states that can be found?" Most people, however, are agreed that the only thing that can justify University representation is the return of men of an independent outlook. Now, all our present members are amiable and highly respected men. . . . . It is widely regretted that the Rev. A. L. Agnew has declined to stand, for grounds of health. Dr. Agnew would have been in many ways an ideal member and would have stood a good chance of election.—"The New Northman."

SUBSIDY FUND.

The Rev. A. Davison, Treasurer, begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following subscription:—

A Holywood Friend £1 0 0

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

THE DIVINE WISDOM.

JAMES I., 26, 27—Whoever considers he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own heart, his religion is futile. Pure, unsoiled religion in the judgment of God the Father means this: to care for orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself from the stain of the world.

BIRTH.

McCLEERY—February 8th, 1938, at Miss Kell's Nursing Home, Castlereagh Street, Belfast, to Doris Mabel, wife of Rev. John McCleery, B.A., S.T.M., Newry—a daughter.

FIRST CHURCH, BELFAST.

Sunday School Centenary.

The First Church has had a memorable time in celebrating 100 years of Sunday School work. Large congregations gathered to the special services conducted on Feb. 6th by the Moderator, the Rev. E. Savell Hicks, M.A., of Dublin, and on the 13th by the Rev Leslie Belton, B.A., M.Sc.. of London Special anthems were rendered by organist and choir. The Central Hall was well filled on Monday, 7th, for the conversazione. After refreshments, over which the Women's League presided, the Rev. R. Nicol Cross took the chair, and a most interesting programme of speeches and other items was gone through. Apologies for absence were received from the Lord Chief Justice for Northern Ireland (the Right Hon. James Andrews, K.C.), the Very Rev. Dr. Moody, Rev. T. R. Erskine, and a letter of congratulation from the Rev. H. J. Rossington, now of Birmingham, was read. A resolution of appreciation of the life and work of the late Dr. D'Arcy, Primate of All Ireland, and of sympathy with his family in their deep loss, was moved by the Moderator, seconded by the Rev. R. Nicol Cross, and passed, all standing. In his later speech Mr. Hicks was in his happiest vein, and Mr. H. J. F. Orr read a paper on "The History of Our School," which showed painstaking research and was listened to with rapt attention.

Then came the presentation of an illuminated address to Mr. Robert McCrum on completing 22 years as superintendent. The address recounted Mr. McCrum's services to school and church, and expressed the feelings of gratitude and esteem in which he is held by the minister and congregation. In presenting the address the Rev. R. Nicol Cross enlarged on what Mr. McCrum's steady devotion, geniality, reliability and character meant to teachers and scholars associated with him. In a moving reply he spoke of his work among the young and the constant joy it had brought him. He did what he felt was his duty.

Mr. Albert Taylor arranged a varied programme of songs, violin solos and recitations in which Miss Eileen Ervine, Miss A. Duthie, Mr. James Laird and others took part, Mrs. Taylor acting as accompanist.

After a vote of thanks to the artistes and Women's League, a notable occasion was brought to a close with the Benediction.

Ministers' Pension and Insurance Fund.

The Appeal for £12,000 to put the Fund on a sound basis has met with a most generous response in England and a notable feature has been the way in which not only the laity but the ministers themselves have responded to the Appeal, and this applies to our ministers in Northern Ireland also. The response from the laity of our church however has been so far very disappointing, and when all considerations have been taken into account, compares very unfavourably with the liberality of those across the water. It is hoped however that further donations may be received from friends who realise the extent to which the Fund will meet obligations which otherwise would rightly involve upon congregations; make some provision for the old age of those who have rendered them long and faithful service.

Of the amount already subscribed and acknowledged in this Magazine viz. £142 12s, our ministers have given £60, and individual donors within the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church £42 10s. That can hardly be called creditable. A further £11 4s. has been received from ministers since last issue.

The figures to date are as follows:—

Total previously acknowledged	£143	12	0
Rev. J. Glynne Davies, Comber	4	4	0
Rev. A. M. Bell, Ballyclare	2	0	0
Rev. C. Simpson, Ballee	2	0	0
Rev. Felix Holt, Ballymoney	2	0	0
Rev. A. S. Peaston, Templepatrick	1	0	0
Total	£153	16	0

Donations should be sent to F. Alan Martineau, Esq. M.A., Bolney House, Ennismore Gardens, London S.W. 7.

KING DAVID'S LAST WORDS.

Now these be the last words of David, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel. "The Rock of Israel spoke to me, 'One that ruleth over men righteously, in the fear of God, shall be as the light of the morning when the sun riseth, a morning without clouds; when the tender grass springeth out of the earth, through clear shining after rain'." II Samuel 23.

THE PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS.

The Professor of the History of Medicine in the University of London, Dr. Charles Singer, has issued a pamphlet entitled "The Christian Approach to the Jews," with a foreword by the Bishop of Chichester, who quotes Dr. Singer as saying: "No Jew can ever be well considered by his fellow Jews who does not devote a large proportion of his resources to charitable ends. . . . . No Jew to whom his religion makes the slighest appeal can meet this self-imposed charge other than cheerfully; and the Bishop adds, "Would that Christians were willing in the same way to devote a large proportion of their resources to charitable ends."

Dr. Singer writes as one professing the Jewish religion and yet living in a non-Jewish environment, but disclaims any right to speak for Jews as a body, because Jews are not thus united, nor is there any ruling central authority among them, though from time larger or smaller congregations have united for various purposes. The greatest folly of Nazi propaganda is to think of the Jews as a single race. The Jews have been scattered over the world for 2,500 years; but they share in the nationality of each European country where they have dwelt for even a few generations. Yet from an early date there has been an admixture in every country, they were in Germany in Roman times long before many of the Germanie tribes invaded the German area. They have a common theological system, though this is curiously simple and elementary. Judaism has always laid special stress on conduct as distinct from doctrine. In 1878 a Lutheran Court Chaplain, Adolf Stoecker, secured 300,000 signatures to an address to Bismark demanding the expulsion of Jews from public offices, and an attempt was made to create a murder ritual out of the death of a child at Xanten in 1891, and a strong wave of anti-Jewish feeling spread from country to country, mob savagery causing massacres on a scale not known for centuries. What is especially lamentable is that bitter persecution should be directed to those who, while of Jewish origin, adhere to the Christian faith. Hundreds of thousands have had to suffer, yet the Christian Churches outside Germany have on the whole been dilatory and hesitating in their attitude to the Nazi attack upon the Jews.

What then should be done?

It is the first charge on Christians, and especially on Christian preachers, to stress constantly in practice the duty to exercise the elementary principles of Christianity towards those who differ from them.

Above all, Christians should always and everywhere hold in mind that all human beings are equal in God's sight.

The publication is by The British Christian Council for International Friendship, Life and Work.

RADEMON NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION.

A CONCERT

(arranged by Unitarian and Free Christian Women's League) will be given in

Rademon Meeting-House on Thursday Evg., March 10

At 7-30 o'clock.

Tickets, 1/- Proceeds in aid of Property Repair Fund

BAND OF HOPE.

This institution is nowadays considered to be somewhat old-fashioned; but, next to the Sunday school it may be the most important one connected with the Church. We have many happy recollections of good meetings well attended and going with a swing; and in a Belfast restaurant once overheard an elderly gentleman telling his friends who were with him round the table that when a boy he took a Band of Hope pledge which he had kept all his life, and he certainly looked a good testimonial to a life-long abstinence begun at an early age.

A copy of "The Band of Hope Chronicle" has reached us, and the Executive Committee has made arrangements to despatch a copy bi-monthly to every Free Church minister during the current year. Those who have seen the magazine will, we think, agree that it deserves to be called a workmanlike production. It has an attractive cover, and is interesting to young and old. We note that, based on evidence in the official records of the Board of Trade and the Home Office reports, convictions for drunkenness among young people are rising rapidly.

Professor Harvey Sutton, M.D., is quoted as saying that "alcohol is a third-rate food, a second-rate drug, and a first-rate poison." He recently stated that he had no reason to change his mind about this, but felt he had probably exaggerated its drug value, and that scientific research would seem to indicate that it was more truthful to say it was a tenth-rate drug, so many more reliable drugs being now available.

REPORTS.

Mountpottinger — The Sunday School New Year Party and presentation of prizes gained during 1937 for good attendance was held in the Schoolroom on January 21st, when there was a fair muster of scholars and parents. Tea having been served to the scholars, games were played for a short period under the direction of Mr. L. Watters and following same the prizes were duly presented by Mrs. L. Watters whose first appearance it was in such circumstances. She performed the duties in a gracious manner and made a very short but pleasing reply to the hearty vote of thanks which was accorded to her. The remainder of the evening was given up to a Cinematograph display by Mr. Fred Collins who has very kindly been responsible for two previous shows. On the motion of Rev. F. Munford, B.A., he received a vociferous vote of thanks for his efforts which were much appreciated.—E.R.J.

Ballee—The Sunday School Scholars' Annual Party and prize-giving was a jolly and successful affair. Our warm appreciation goes to Mrs. T. Stewart, who kindly presented the prizes and toys, and cordial thanks to the ladies who superintended the catering.

A Cake, Produce and Jumble Sale, in aid of Church Funds, was held in the Schoolroom on January 22nd, when an amount of over £14 was realised. Hearty thanks are due and given to the friends who gave gifts for the Sale, and to the ladies and gentlemen whose welcome oo-operation made the event such an undoubted success.

Mountpottinger Women's League—The monthly meeting was held on the 8th Feb., at which a talk was given by Miss Gardiner, M.A., of Holywood, entitled "Germans I have met." Miss Gardiner made this talk most interesting by telling the audience of the very enjoyable holiday she had spent in Germany on four different occasions. She has great admiration for the German people, for their cleverness in Art, Music, etc., and also for the kindness shown to visitors to that country. The one thing Miss Gardiner did not admire them for was, lack of consideration for their women folk.

Unitarian Women's League—The Quarterly Meeting of the Ulster District was held at Holywood on January 25th. The service in the Church at 3 p.m. was taken by Mrs. E. Thompson of Ballygally, who gave a helpful and interesting address. Miss McNinch of Larne, presided at the organ. Tea was afterwards served in the Schoolroom to about seventy members of branches in Antrim and Down. The new branch recently formed at Crumlin was welcomed to the district by Mrs. G. Gardiner, B.A., of Holywood, President of the Ulster District.

Miss Armstrong, who for many years was President of the Ulster District and responsible for the formation of many branches, was presented with a nest of tables as a slight appreciation of her work for the Ulster District League of Unitarian Women.

The Rev. J. Begg of Larne, afterwards gave a very interesting paper on Burns, the Poet of Humanity.—A.R.

Ballyclare—A fine attendance marked the Annual Meeting held in this Church on 15th February. The chairman (Rev. A. M. Bell, B.A.) in his review of the year's work stated that while nothing spectacular had taken place—the essentials for which the church stood, had been carried on satisfactorily.

Votes of thanks were accorded to all those who had helped to maintain the Church, Sunday School and Choir in so healthy a state. The Sunday School was well attended and well staffed and it is gratifying to know that the four children who entered for the S.S. Essay competition all obtained prizes and several had made a year's perfect attendance. This is creditable when we realize how small scattered our numbers are. Mr. Bell also announced that as former S. School pupil, an honour's graduate at Queen's (Mr. Ted Harson) had just been appointed to the science staff of Woolwich Arsenal. The organist (Mrs. Moore) has brought to the music her undeniable gifts and we have a choir of which we are all proud. A vote of thanks passed by hearty acclamation to Mr. Bell for his dignified conduct of the services, his visits to our homes and for the high order of the sermons we are priveliged to listen.

All officials were unanimously re-elected, the Treasurer read his statement of accounts and long may he be spared to read many such like reports.

After the business meeting we adjourned to the school where a tea worthy of the ladies of this congregation was dispensed.

Then we were treated to a concert of a very high order by Mrs. Moore's pupils past and present. A trio of talented sisters danced for us and truly theirs was the poetry of motion, their performance being out-standing. Miss Sheila May sang "Big Lady Moon" and

"The Songs my Mother Sang" proving that she is an artiste of very high order in dancing and singing. Little Miss Phyllis Maclean showed us how a sailor's horn pipe should be danced and she and her sister delighted us with their vocal solos. Mr. John Harson, who was in excellent voice, contributed solos and took part with Mr. I. Peoples in a duet, shared a quartette with Messrs Laird, Peoples and Horner. Miss Gladys Maclean and Master McCullough sang two duets. Truly Ballyclare has much talent and Mrs. Moore and her pupils are deserving of our best thanks. As a fitting end to this delightful programme, Mrs. Moore sang "Little Old Lady" The years seem to add mellowness and beauty to her lovely voice and it is always a "high spot" to listen to her.

A vote of thanks to all who had contributed to this memorable evening was proposed by Mr. W. C. Forsythe and passed by very hearty acclamation. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought to a close one of the most enjoyable meetings held in that schoolroom of many memories.

Warrenpoint—Mr. James Brown the new M.P. for South Down is a brother of Mr. Thomas J. Brown a former Vice-chairman of Warrenpoint Urban Council, a member of the committee of the 1st Presbyterian (Non-Subscribing) Church, Warrenpoint, and one of its most enthusastic supporters.

Ordination at Downpatrick—The Rev. Henry Hall, late of Hinckley, Leicestershire, was ordained by Antrim Presbytery to the pastorate of Downpatrick Presbyterian Non-Subscribing Church. The solemn service in the church at Stream-street was conducted by the Moderator of Presbytery, Rev. J. Shaw Brown, of Clough. The sermon was preached by Rev. W. Howard Payne, of All Soul's, Belfast, and Rev. W. H. Tilson, of Greyabbey, expounded Presbyterian polity. After the usual questions, Rev. A. M. Bell, of Ballyclare, offered the ordination prayer. The charge was given by Rev. A. L. Agnew, D.D., of York Street, Belfast. The benediction having been pronounced, the congregation individually welcomed the newly ordained minister, and also his wife.

THINGS THAT ARE ETERNAL.

The New Minister's statement in the church:

I am mindful of the high privilege which will be mine in ministering to a worshipping people some message of things unseen and eternal. Though I am perforce impressed by the reality of the things of time and sense, I am infinitely more impressed by the deeper and more abiding reality of eternal things, and I am conscious that we struggling, suffering mortals, despite our frailties and our sins, are children not merely of time, but of eternity, and that nothing can finally satisfy our souls except some direct contact with the source and origin of our being.

I believe, too, that of the many ways in which men have sought and found God, the way of Christ is the way most of all needed by men, for it is in the light of His sublime teaching only that we can live to the fullest reach of our moral and spiritual powers. It is, however, not only as Teacher but as Lord that I regard Christ, because He has shown by His life and death what is the real purpose of God for humanity, to become like Christ, to be filled with His spirit, so that our life is hid with Christ in God. Moreover, it is supremely in the Cross of Christ that I build my faith in God, because I see in the redemptive love poured forth by Him the supreme revelation of what is in the heart of the Father, so that whatever else the God whom we worship is, He must be like Christ, He must be Redeemer as well as King and Lord over all.

N.B. The proceedings were very successful. 120 sat down to splendid luncheon served by Ulster Menu Company.

We are obliged to hold over further details until next issue. [ED.]

POETRY.

"The poetic world is both ideal and actual, fictitious and true. In this it does not differ, as it is generally thought to differ, from the position which scientific inquiry has to-day assumed. Since 1925 . . . . . the previous conceptions of Science have been transformed beyond recognition. Matter is not the solid substance of yesterday. The table upon which we lean, consists mainly of empty space or more properly an immaterial field beyond the sight of science."

"The Confluence of Poetry." Syed Mendi Imam, B.A. (Oxon).

Will our friends who see to the sale of this Magazine, kindly endeavour to get new subscribers.

REVIEW.

The Great Unity, by Margaret Barr, M.A. Price 1/6 Lindsey Press.

This little book is presented in attractive form, with symbols of the Founders of Great Religions on its cover. Miss Barr regards the study of Comparative Religion as being of vital interest, to be started early and not regarded simply as an extra. The title of her book indicates that she goes right to the core of the subject, to the Unity underlying and shining through the Great Religions. The Introduction informs us that the book is the outcome of an educational experiment at the Gokhale Memorial Girls' School in Calcutta. The school was open to children of every faith, and the task of working out a scheme to meet the varied requirements required someone with a broad Universalist point of view, and the writer an English Unitarian Minister, was deemed to be such a person. We know of books in larger form, and in graduated series, used in Schools and Colleges in India, we believe with Government sanction; but, we have not met one of this type before, planned on excellent method, and from a wide survey concentrating a selection of stories and story-lessons for the littlest ones, and then up to religious teaching taken with older girls up to 17 and 18 years of age as the culmination of the course of study.

"The aim was to drive home once again that the most important thing about religion is not theories and rites, ceremonials and sacred books, gods and demons, schemes of salvation and historical systems, but a living power aflame in the hearts and lives of human beings."

Two years were devoted to the lives of the founders and the history of the World's Living Religions. To eliminate the Founder from a religion is to present "the play without Hamlet." As one illustration of the Divine Unity the well-known Hindu story is given, of the son who asked his father concerning the Self; after having cast salt into water, the father asked his boy to taste from the top, then from the middle, then from the bottom; "as the salt pervades the water, so does the One pervade all."

"Unity not uniformity should be the watch-word of Universalism. Unitarianism, usually regarded as a Christian denomination is becoming a growing-point for World Religion." We heartily congratulate Miss Barr, on this most excellent piece of work, and trust that it will receive rapid and wide-spread acceptance.—ULLIN.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Ellen Sinclair.

In the passing of Ellen Sinclair at the age of 90 the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church has lost an elect spirit. She belonged to an old Moneyrea connexion, but many years ago settled in Belfast, where her second husband, George Sinclair, carried on a shoe-making business. She was a member of the First Church, and at one period a member of the Committee. On the marriage of her younger daughter to Robert Kennedy, and being then a widow, she came to live with them and continued a member of the household ever since. Mrs. Kennedy died suddenly about 26 years ago and Mrs. Sinclair brought up the young family, and was a mother as well as grand-mother to them. She represented the best type of Ulster motherhood, God-fearing and conscientious in her duties, hard-working and much beloved. For many years old age and infirmity prevented her attending church, but she never lost her interest, and during the last few years in which she was confined to bed it was always joy to visit her, for her spirit remained ever bright and her skilled fingers were never idle, she was always knitting or doing the beautiful embroidery work that delighted her friends and some of which she gave to the last Sale of Work at the First Church. She bore her long trial with uncomplaining patience a i turned it to good account, being tended by her two grand-daughters with filial gratitude till the end, which came as a happy release. She was a kindly charitable soul, always thinking of others, and her memory will remain with us to bless, as that of a very gentle and kind and good old lady, whose presence in the home will be greatly missed. But her mind was stayed on God, and she was ready for the call. The funeral took place to Moneyrea on February 15th, the Rev. Dare Davies officiating.

R. NICOL CROSS.

S. & J. HEWITT

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FUNDAMENTALISTS!

The churches in Northern Ireland have to suffer from the revival of a pest which has pursued the churches for at least the past seventy years. Fundamentalists of the narrowest type insinuate themselves into congregations and make trouble for ministers and people. They are crude literalists, they go by the printed word of the Authorised Version, which evidently they consider as having been dictated by Almighty God, and He alone knows who it was that He dictated to; because even the best Biblical scholars are averse to fixing the identity of any one of the authors; but that to these self-appointed preachers is a matter of no consequence.

Gospel-Hall preachers make claims for the Bible that it doesn't make for itself, and their teaching is the letter that killeth and not the Spirit that giveth life. They talk a great deal about the Blood; but they don't know what it means. It represents the life, and it is the Life of Christ taken into your life that cleanses from all sin. "We are saved by His *life*,"—not blood.

There was a religion alongside Early Christianity which taught that it was necessary to be washed in the blood of the bull; so anyone joining that religion was baptised in blood; he lay down in a trench with a grating over it, and a bull was brought and slaughtered and the blood went all over him. Perhaps if the truth were known that text about "the blood of Jesus cleansing from all sin" may have been slipped in at a later date by one who had had this idea from this form of initiation.

People are very much under the influence of their neighbours living on each side of them, and sometimes one of the family marries a Plymouth Brother of an aggressive type and brings a preacher into the house, just the same as was described once in this magazine as having happened at Moneyrea in the time of the Rev. Richard Lyttle, where the last hours of a faithful member of the congregation there were embittered by the annoyance caused by those doctrines, which all her life she had opposed, being forced upon her attention. But we have known this kind of thing for over fifty years. Several of our ministers can bear us out in having incessantly to contact the aggressiveness and impudence of such preachers. Paul had the same experience with narrow sectaries. After he had left a place where he had been ministering, scarcely would his back be turned than some of the people—very staunch and loyal while he was with them—would have gone back again "to the weak and beggarly elements." People with no grit, with no intelligence, with no loyalty or character.

Paul in his letter tells about the type that come round trying to get hold of them, getting into their houses, and he writes: "These men make much of you—yes, but for dishonest ends; they want to debar you from us, so that you may make much of them. I am at my wits' end about you!" The same type then that we know so well now, insinuating themselves wherever they can. Common sense is the way of salvation. ULLIN.

[In fairness, however, to the Plymouth Brethren let us add, that there are several sections of them among whom there are we know those who would strongly object to aggressive propaganda, and making themselves offensive to the Churches, people who in some ways remind one of the Quakers, and from whom have come prominent citizens who have done good service to the community. Fundamentalism has other advocates, unfortunately extremely vulgar and objectionable in their methods; men, on whose own confession, have a past which renders them the least entitled to burlesque as they do, clergymen and church-elders and others who have regard for dignity in behaviour in the house of God.—ED.]

The Late Primate of All Ireland.

At the Centenary Conversazione held at the Central Hall, Belfast, in connection with the First Church Sunday School, a resolution expressing appreciation of the life and work of the late Dr. D'Arcy, Primate of All Ireland, and of sympathy with his family, was moved by the Moderator of the Church, Rev. E. Savell Hicks, seconded by the Rev. R. Nicol Cross, Chairman of the meeting, and passed, all standing.

The following acknowledgment has been received:—

The Palace, Armagh.
10th February, 1938.

Dear Mr. Nicol Cross,—On behalf of myself and the other members of the late Primate's family, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your message of sympathy.

No words can express what his loss means to us, but I feel I must let you know how grateful we are for your sympathy and kindness in sending such a message.

Yours sincerely,
DOROTHY D'ARCY.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CAN POVERTY BE ENDED?

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for any opinions expressed in this correspondence.

SIR,—May I be permitted to add my quota to the discussion: "Can Poverty be Ended?"

I believe Poverty exists on account of the false thinking of man along many lines. The main illusion which causes so much trouble and misery throughout the history of the human race is the idea of individual aggrandisement and ambition, the idea that man can live truly and fully by grasping and heaping up wordly possessions and power, around himself. This has always been disastrous, but to-day with intricate economic and commercial systems which hide the true facts of the age. "Abundant plenty" is the outcome of applied inner and mechanical ingenuity. This fact is being distorted and the dividend which should be in the hands of everyone, the ability to secure the increasing products of machinery and efficiency, is now being used to create and further a mass murder campaign. I think it must be evident to every thinking person that purchasing power will have to be distributed in other ways, than that of beside wages or salaries, for the simple reason that as the machine and a system displaces man, they create infinitely more goods, etc., but, distribute no purchasing power to buy those goods.

We have entered an entirely new age, but as yet have failed to realize it, and so we try to put "new wine into old bottles," we try to apply old remedies to the new diseases which have now sprung into being. In reality, there is not an unemployment problem. Man in his blindness fails to perceive and to accept the age of leisure, that is being forced upon him by the improved circumstances which he himself has created.

May the thought of the world, on the ending of Poverty,—a problem extremely urgent when the existence of civilization itself is menaced,—soon be ventilated and adjusted to Truth, and the "Era of Culture" ushered in, made possible by the leisure, won for us, by the machine having become "the servant," instead of "the master" of all.

R. KENNEDY, Belfast.

SIR,—To all those who seek a solution of this problem, especially when stated as the problem of Poverty amidst Plenty, the epoch-making discoveries of Major Douglas open up a very bright future.

It is too little recognised that the relationship of man to his environment has been revolutionised by the enormous stimulus to production given by the wonderful mechanical and scientific discoveries of the past 150 years. To-day, the problem of wringing from nature a sufficiency for each as been solved on a lavish scale, certainly for Western Europe and North America, and it only remains to devise a social mechanism for the equitable distribution of the ever-growing stream of real wealth.

This is primarily a problem for money to solve, as it has been truly said, we are endeavouring to distribute a twentieth century production by an eighteenth century system of money, controlled by a sixteenth century philosophy of scarcity; we must make a radical change in the present control of financial credit. There is an extensive literature now on this subject, written or inspired by Major Douglas, and those interested can study it for themselves.

Briefly, it has been demonstrated that under present conditions the purchasing power in the hands of the community is chronically insufficient to buy the whole product of industry. This is because the money required to finance capital production, and created by the banks for that purpose, is regarded as borrowed from them, and, in order that it may be repaid, is charged into consumers' goods. It is a vital fallacy to treat new money thus created by the banks as a repayable loan, without crediting the community, on the strength of whose resources the money was created, with the value of the resulting new capital resources.

This has given rise to a defective system of national loan accountancy, resulting in the reduction of the community to a condition of perpetual scarcity, and bringing them face to face with the alternatives of widespread unemployment of men and machines as at present, or of international complications arising from the struggle for foreign markets.

We must, however, first make up our minds as to whether Authority or Liberty shall be the key-note of the New Age now opening before us.

If we believe in authority and more authority, then we should leave the present financial system severely alone, since it is the most effective means of controlling mankind in the mass that the mind of man has yet devised; physical slavery is crude and ineffective compared to it.

If on the other hand, as I think the readers of this magazine stand for liberty and its corresponding responsibilities then we must work for the economic freedom of the individual, which must be the foundation for that freedom.

This can only be conferred under an enlightened administration of Social Credit.—Yours, etc.,

T. KENNEDY, Dublin.

SIR,—It would be a pity if the interest shown in the "Non-Subscribing Presbyterian" in the problem of "Poverty in the midst of plenty," were taken to be the same thing as an acceptance of the theory of Social Credit. There seems to be some danger of that. My own contention is that Christians, as Christians, should show interest in the problem and be prepared to give time and energy to the ascertaining of facts and the finding of a solution.

In the recent past it was enough for a man to show an alert interest in the difficulties of our social life for him to be dubbed "Socialist." This was a habit on the part of unthinking people which became an obstacle to unprejudiced study. So far as I am able, I would prevent this particular kind of history from repeating itself. It ought to be possible for our churches to have classes and discussion groups, wherein the problems of unemployment, of needed work left undone, of the effects of unemployment benefit, of the disorganisation of world supply, could be seriously considered without the students being labelled "red" or "green." It may be that after giving thought to the matter, such students would become convinced that the way of achievement is that of alliance with a particular political party or a particular set of theorists; but that would be for individual decision, not for church edict.

But whether we accept a label or not, to use what intelligence we have in these matters is to be about "Our Father's business."—Yours, etc.,

JOHN HINKINS.

DEAR SIR,—It does one good to see the interest that is aroused by this subject. The position is truly tragic. Starvation in the midst of plenty, and yet what else can we expect. The Creator has provided in the earth for all our needs and luxuries, and we hand it over to a few of our number, not to be used for our benefit, but for them to do with it as they choose. From the earth we derive all we possess and we hand the benefits over to a few, whilst the rest of us live a more or less maimed life in consequence. The late Mr. Henry George in his book "Progress and Poverty," analysed this problem and pointed to the cause, and also pointed to a way of release.

To those who are interested in this matter I would suggest that they get in touch with the Henry George School of Social Studies, c/o. Mr. George Green, 185 Ormeau Road, who, I am sure, will be glad to hear from such and put them in touch with some of the classes run by this body.—Yours sincerely,

W. GREEN.

This correspondence is now closed. [ED.]

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